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BOROUGH OF DROITWICH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

BOROUGH SURVEYOR
and
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1961

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MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL 1961/62

His Worship the Mayor		Councillor R.Pearson
Deputy Mayor		" R.D.N.Fabricius
	Aldermen	Mrs.J.M.Addenbrooke
		B.Inett
		E.S.Jones
		J.A.Pittaway
	Councillors	J.Baylis
		A.G.Brodrick
		A.G.I.Cardno
		S.B.Harris
		Mrs.T.D.Hammond
		Mrs.E.L.Hatchett
		A.W.S.Holloway
		R.Humphries
		R.Jolliffe
		H.Roberts

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THIS AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health	L.Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
Surveyor & Public Health Inspector	Graham L.Robinson, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A. (Certificated Meat and Food Inspector).

Town Hall,
Droitwich.

September, 1962

The Mayor, Aldermen and Members of
the Droitwich Borough Council.

Your Worship, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1961.

The health of the inhabitants of the town has remained good, and no serious outbreaks of infectious disease have occurred. For the first time, I am able to report that no new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, and the number on the register appears to be steadily diminishing. A small outbreak of Infective Hepatitis (Catarrhal Jaundice) occurred and is described on Page 11. Most of the cases occurred in school children and were mild. A Smallpox scare resulted from cases in London, Bradford and Birmingham in December, 1961, but Droitwich escaped and this only resulted in a heavy Vaccination programme in the new year. A considerable number of persons came forward who had never been vaccinated in their lives before, which shows how people neglect this essential precaution, and I would strongly advise others to come forward now for protection if they have not done so.

Nineteen-sixty-one was a year when a number of controversial subjects were discussed by the Council ranging from Overspill and a new sewage works to the purchase of Heriots Pool. It may be thought that the Medical Officer of Health stands by merely as a casual observer; this is not so, for the issues to be decided in the near future will have a marked effect upon the work of the Public Health Department.

The acceptance of Overspill would undoubtedly lead to the provision of new clinics and a general improvement in the Health Services provided by the County Council. The re-organisation of Local Government may result in the amalgamation of two or three districts which from my point of view would produce greater efficiency and ease of administration. I would not like it thought that difficulties exist in the present system, however, and wish to thank the Borough Surveyor and his Staff for their willing support and co-operation during the year.

I remain, Mr.Mayor,

Your obedient servant,

L.SPENCER STEPHENS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION "A" - STATISTICS

Area	1735 acres
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population, mid-1961	7960
Number of inhabited houses 1961 (according to Rate books)	2250
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1961	£117,641
Sum represented by a Penny Rate 1961	£465

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year:-

Live Births	Male	Female.	Total
Legitimate	68	64	132
Illegitimate	4	3	7

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5.04%
Standardised Birth Rate	17.42
Birth Rate - England and Wales	17.4

Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	-	-	Nil

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	34.72
Still Birth Rate - England and Wales	18.7
Total Live and Still Births	144

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Analysis of Deaths	46	49	95

Standardised Death Rate	11.04
Death Rate - England and Wales	12.0

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	1	1

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	28.78
Legitimate	22.73
Illegitimate	142.85
Infantile Mortality Rate - England and Wales	21.4

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	1	1

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	14.39
Neonatal Mortality Rate England and Wales	15.5
Maternal Deaths	Nil
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil

	Primary causes of death	Male	Female	Total 1961
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
2.	" other	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	1	-	1
11.	" " lung, bronchus	3	-	3
12.	" " breast	-	2	2
13.	" " uterus	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	5	8
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	6	15
18.	Coronary disease, angina	7	7	14
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	2	-	2
20.	Other heart diseases	6	13	19
21.	Other circulatory diseases	1	4	5
22.	Influenza	1	-	1
23.	Pneumonia	1	4	5
24.	Bronchitis	4	1	5
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1	1
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and Pephroses	-	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	2	-	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	3	4
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	1	-	1
34.	All other accidents	2	3	5
35.	Suicide	1	-	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
		46	49	95

End of Section "A"

SECTION 'B' - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. The following services are provided by the County Council:-

(a) Ambulance Service

The main Ambulance Station is situated at Worcester where a fleet of modern ambulances is manned day and night. Other Ambulance Stations are situated at Bromsgrove and Kidderminster.

A special ambulance for rheumatic cases is situated in Droitwich. This vehicle is equipped with special devices for the aid of crippled patients.

The hospital car service, manned by volunteers, is used to supplement the Ambulance Service.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed in special ambulances which are stationed at the Isolation Hospitals.

(b) Home Help Service

This service is administered by the Women's Voluntary Services on behalf of the County Council. The service provides domestic help for the aged in cases of illness, and for maternity cases during confinement

There are now 6 full-time and seventeen part-time Home Helps on the Register.

Payment for this service is made according to means.

During the year the following cases were assisted through this service:-

General	169	(132)
Maternity	30	(23)
Tuberculosis	2	(2)

(figures in brackets are for the previous year).

(c) Home Nursing and Health Visiting Service

Two District Nurse Midwives are stationed in the Borough. They attend booked domicillary midwifery cases and assist the General Practitioners with general nursing problems and injections in the home. There are also two part-time Health Visitors for the Borough whose main duties are the care of young children from 0-5 years, but they are also responsible for the health and welfare of the whole family. They attend the Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics and are in close contact with the Voluntary Services. A specialist Health Visitor is employed for visiting cases of Tuberculosis, and she operates from the Royal Infirmary, Worcester, where she is under the supervision of the Chest Physician in charge.

(d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children

The County Council's Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon in the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

During the year, 2,615 attendances were made at this Clinic compared with 2,467 the previous year.

The County Council's Ante-Natal clinic is now closed, but Parentcraft and Relaxation classes are held on alternate Thursdays for the benefit of mothers attending their General Practitioner. A physiotherapist, Midwives and Health Visitors are in attendance. There were 197 attendances during 1961.

(e) Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination and immunisation can be carried out free of charge by the patient's own doctor, or at the County Council's clinic.

The following inoculations were done during 1961:-

(i) Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year 132 (135)

Number of children who received a first reinforcing dose during the year 176 (117)

Number of children who received a second reinforcing dose during the year ... ... 55 (not known)

(ii) Whooping Cough Immunisation

Number of children who received a full course of immunisation during the year 122

Reinforcing doses are not normally considered to be necessary.

(iii) Vaccination against Smallpox

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year 106 (132)

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year 18 (nil)

(figures in brackets relate to the previous year)

(iv) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

A considerable number of persons of all ages (under 40 years) received injections of Salk Vaccine during the year. Details are published in the County Medical Officer's Report. Sabin Vaccine is now being used and is administered orally on a lump of sugar.

(f) Admissions to Part III Accommodation - National Assistance Act, 1948

No formal action was necessary during the year.

Hospitals

The following services are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board:-

(i) The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Birmingham.

(ii) Cases of Infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital Worcester.

(iii) Maternity cases which cannot be confined at home, are admitted to Maternity Homes at Stourport, Bromsgrove, Evesham and Ronkswood.

(iv) Sanatoria for the treatment of Tuberculosis are situated at Knightwick and Worcester.

(v) The Town is well recognised as one of the leading centres for the treatment of Rheumatic diseases, and there is a flourishing Out-patient Department situated at the Brine Baths. There are also two special hospitals reserved exclusively for treating the more severe cases of the disease, and both operate on a National basis, accepting cases from all over the country. Highfield Hospital has 60 beds and St.John's Hospital 64 beds. The average length of stay for a course of Hydrotherapy is three weeks but other modern methods of treatment are now being used and may necessitate the patient staying in much longer. A gadgets kitchen has also been set up at Highfield Hospital with a view to teaching the female patients in particular to overcome their physical disabilities in the home. Many other gadgets have been invented which enable patients to perform simple actions, which, due to limitation of joint movement, would otherwise have to be done for them.

End of Section 'B'

SECTION 'C' - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

The East Worcestershire (Droitwich Borough) Water Order 1960 was responsible for the transfer of the Borough Council's water undertaking to the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company.

Certain changes have taken place since that date, among which has been the construction of a 100 ft. Water Tower on Yew Tree Hill, Droitwich. This has a capacity of 150,000 gallons being filled direct from the adjacent reservoir by electrically driven submersible pumps controlled by automatic float units. The tower which has an Ordnance Datum of 351 ft. above sea level was primarily designed to supply the southern parishes of the Rural District, but has also assisted considerably in improving supplies to the town. Difficulties have nevertheless been encountered owing to poor pressure along Old Coach Road due to an old length of main, and the Company have now agreed to lay a new main to this area in conjunction with the development of the St.Andrew's House Estate.

The water supplied by the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company is drawn from four boreholes close to the Lickey Hills and is usually mixed before reaching the town. The water is not chlorinated except in emergencies and bacteriological reports are shown below, together with one chemical sample.

	Date 4.12.61	No of Colonies developing on Agar in 2 Days at 37° C	In 3 Days at 22° C	Probable No. of Coliform Bacilli	Probable No. of Faecal Coliform Bacilli
i.	Burcot	Nil	7	Nil	Nil
ii.	Wildmoor No. 2.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
iii.	Brockhill No.1.	1	40	Nil	Nil
iv.	Washingstocks	6	35	Nil	Nil

The Samples are fit for drinking.

Burcot — Chemical Analysis — 4.12.61

Colour - Colourless
Odour - None
Appearance - Clear P.H.6.6

	Parts per million
Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°C)	-
Solids in Solution (Dried at 180° C)	225
Chlorine present as Chloride	19
Hardness. Permanent	48
Temporary	92
Total	140
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	Nil
Nitrate Nitrogen	5.4
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C	Nil
Toxic Metals	None detected.

The chemical composition of samples from the other boreholes is very similar. There is no question of the water having a plumbo-solvent action.

The majority of dwelling houses in the town have mains water and only a few close to the Borough boundaries still have to rely on well water

Number of houses supplied with Mains water	2231
Number of houses using standpipes	7
Number of houses on well water	12

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

In order to solve some of the urgent problems relating to sewerage in the town, a temporary scheme was submitted to the Minister early in the Year and has now been approved.

The main object of the scheme is to relieve the surcharged condition of the sewers in the town centre by diverting the flow from the new housing estates, and to provide better treatment at the sewage disposal works.

The following work is about to be carried out:-

(a) Construction of a permanent sewer draining from Stalls Farm Estate to the bridge conveying the Ombersley Road over the Canal.

(b) Construction of a temporary pumping station near the above bridge and a rising main thence to the existing works.

(c) Construction of a balancing tank and sludge lagoon at the existing disposal works.

It has been agreed that whether Overspill is accepted or not, it will be necessary to construct a new sewage disposal works down the Salwarpe Valley within the next few years to cater for the natural development of the town. The existing works is very badly sited there being great difficulty in draining the southern half of the town (where most of the new residential development is taking place) without pumping. The Consulting Engineers have surveyed the area extensively and reported upon the merits and demerits of three sites for a new disposal works which could cater for a population of up to 30,000 if necessary. Following consultations with the County Council and the Rural District Council a site near Ladywood has been chosen as most suitable.

3. Droitwich Sea Bathing Lido

Few difficulties were encountered in operating the plant during the 1961 season, and all the bacteriological samples were satisfactory.

A new entrance to the bath, together with an extension of the sun bathing area has added materially to the appearance of the pool. The new paddling pool has also been popular with young children.

4. Refuse Disposal

Controlled tipping is still carried out on land adjacent to the King George V Playing Fields. An additional layer of refuse is now being added to the tip and consideration should again be given to the provision of an alternative site in the near future.

5. Mortuary

Droitwich Mortuary is now closed, provision having been made for the reception of Droitwich cases at Martley mortuary, which is some fifteen miles distant.

At the end of the year a meeting took place between representatives of the Borough Council, Droitwich Rural District Council and Worcestershire County Council, at which it was agreed that a new Mortuary was very necessary and that provision should be made in the Town Plan for a building close to the Police Station if a suitable site could be found there.

End of Section 'C'

SECTION 'D' - HOUSING

The following table shows the housing work carried out during 1960:-

Number of new houses erected:-

(1)	By the Local Authority	4
(2)	By other Local Authorities	Nil
(3)	By other bodies or persons	22

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	127
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	174
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	55
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	117
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	20

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	47

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(1) Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1957

(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	None
(b)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:-	
	By Owners	None
	By Local Authority in default of owners	None

(2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	6

(b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices

By Owners	None
By Local Authority in default of Owners	6

(3) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1957

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
(b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

(4) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

(a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	2
(b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	None

Housing Act, 1957. Part IV. Overcrowding

(1) (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year:-	7
(b) Number of families dwelling therein	7
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	61
(2) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	2
(3) (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	2
(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases	6
(c) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	Nil

End of Section 'D'

SECTION 'E' - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Routine inspection of Food Premises within the Borough was carried out throughout the year by the Public Health Inspector. Generally speaking the standard set by the Catering Industry is excellent, and most shop premises satisfactory. No serious complaints were received during the year.

There is one manufacturer and thirty five retailers of Ice-Cream registered by the Local Authority under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Milk and Dairies are no longer the responsibility of the Council, dealer's licences being issued by the Food & Drugs Authority (i.e., The Worcestershire County Council) under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960.

Routine meat inspection was carried out by the Public Health Inspector at the one private slaughterhouse operating in the Borough and the quantity of meat dealt with is shown in the following table:-

Schedule of Meat inspected during 1961

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) approx	95	-	7	429	104
Number inspected	95	-	7	429	104
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	-	-	2	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	7.3%	-	-	0.46%	0.96%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.1%	-	-	-	-
Cysticerosis	-	-	-	-	-

End of Section 'E'

SECTION 'F'

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases

Particulars of cases of infectious disease which occurred during the year are shown in the following table.-

Age Group	Measles	Whooping Cough	Meningococcal Meningitis	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Dysentery
Under 1 year	-	1	1	1	-	-
1 - 2 years	3	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4 years	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 years	2	7	-	-	-	-
10 years	2	6	-	-	-	-
15 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 years	1	-	-	1	-	-
45 and over	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals	8	15	1	3	Nil	Nil

Infective Hepatitis

This is not a notifiable infectious disease, but with the co-operation of the General Practitioners in the town, a total of sixty eight cases were collected between August, 1960 and December, 1961. The disease, which is due to a virus, causes a mild form of Jaundice which usually cleares up in 3 to 4 weeks, but in rare cases is more persistent. Only one case was admitted to hospital.

Investigation of the outbreak showed that it was initially centred round one of the Primary Schools in the town, but later spread elsewhere, quite a number of adults being affected. The disease is undoubtedly spread due to faulty toilet habits and a poor standard of hygiene. The toilet facilities at this school have now been greatly improved by the erection of two new blocks of lavatories and hand basins.

Infective Hepatitis - Population Distribution	
Pre-School Children	4
Primary School A	34
" " B	3
Private Schools	3
Secondary Schools	9
Adults	15
Total	68

Tuberculosis

Particulars of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis which occurred during the year are shown below.

Age periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
TOTALS	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register during 1961 are shown below:-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on register at 1st January, 1961	15	16	1	9
Additions to register during the year - New Cases	-	-	-	-
- Others	-	-	-	-
	15	16	1	9
Deductions from register during the year	1	2	-	1
Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1961	14	14	1	8

Meetings of the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee for South Worcestershire are held periodically at the Shire Hall, Worcester. This Committee endeavours to give extra help to needy tuberculosis patients and their families.

The scope of the Committee is now being extended so that assistance may be given to sick persons who are physically or mentally handicapped.

End of Section 'F'

SECTION 'G'

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health were made as follows:-

1.	(a)	Number of Factories on register in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are enforced by Local Authority	55
		Number of Inspections made	23
	(b)	Number of Factories not included above, in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	Nil
		Number of Inspections made	Nil
	(c)	Number of other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	Nil
		Number of Inspections made	Nil
2.		Cases in which Defects were found	2
3.		Number of Out-workers in list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (3)	Nil

End of Section 'G'

Borough Surveyor's Department
Town Hall,
Droitwich.

September, 1962.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Droitwich Town Council.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my 17th Annual Report concerning my duties as Public Health Inspector, to which I have coupled a review of my work as Engineer and Surveyor during the year 1961.

A start was made upon the improvement of the Sewage Disposal Works and at the end of the year, a contract was being prepared for a short-term scheme which will help in the purification of the sewage and also allow some further development of the town.

The flood scheme was completed, and it was pleasing to note that no further floods were experienced in High Street. As I have mentioned on a number of occasions, this does not mean that floods cannot occur, only that it is not anticipated that the river will flood unless more than 2" of rainfall occurs. When an area of land is below river level, flooding can never be prevented entirely. Similarly, whilst the Midlands Electricity Board have improved the reliability of their supply to the pumping station in High Street, should this supply fail during time of rain, then flooding will most likely occur.

With the bungalows and flats being built by Messrs.Selleck Nicholls nearing completion, it should be possible to allow for some of the houses subject to Demolition Orders to be vacated.

With the approval by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government of the Canal Scheme within the Borough, your Consulting Engineers were working upon the design of the scheme.

An item of outstanding satisfaction to the residents of the town has been the modernisation of the street lighting, particularly the introduction of the new sodium lamps along the A.38 and the colour corrected mercury lamps in the Town Centre.

The difficult question of Town Development still looms before the Council and general development as a whole cannot proceed until this matter has been settled. It is to be hoped that a decision will be reached at an early date.

A matter of prime importance is the construction of the new sewage disposal works, and sites were being investigated down the Salwarpe Valley.

I would also call your Council's attention to the considerable amount of work now required in connection with the supervision and approval under the Building Byelaws and Planning Acts of the many new buildings in course of erection. One technical member of my staff is engaged upon these duties half his time, which makes serious inroads upon the time available for the preparation of important schemes

Inspections and visits made during 1961 are as follows:-

	1961
Visits to direct labour and contract works	377
Inspection of Messrs.Selleck Nicholls' Contract	141
Inspections of new buildings under Building Byelaws ...	497
Inspections re maintenance of highways	223
Inspections re factories including bakehouses	23

Inspections of food shops and catering premises	39
Visits to Slaughterhouse	92
Visits to Council Houses re repairs	305
Visits re supervision of sewers, Sewage Works and Refuse Tip	87
Visits re supervision of Lido, Parks and Public Open Spaces	240
Visits re Canal Scheme	32
Samples taken for analysis, including milk, sewage water, ice cream, swimming bath water and trade effluents ...	17
Number of houses inspected for housing defects including re-visits	174
Visits of inspection for preparation of schemes for housing and other work, and advise re planning and Building Byelaws	138
Inspections in connection with street lighting schemes ...	156
Inspections of houses regarding grants or in course of improvement	24
Miscellaneous visits not otherwise recorded	47

New Housing

During the year four bungalows were built on the Brookside site and occupied by elderly people, and 20 one-bedroom flats were in course of construction on the Stalls Farm Estate, and their letting would take place early in 1962. It is anticipated that as a result of these particular dwellings, a good deal of adjustment in tenancies can take place by the moving of tenants from under-occupied houses and allowing the houses thus freed to be put to better use. The demand for the tenancy of houses is now increasing, and there is a sizeable waiting list.

Your Housing Committee were giving a good deal of thought to the development of a further estate, and following a survey of available sites, it was decided that the land in Hanbury Road lying between Hanbury Road and Winslow Avenue would be most suitable for development. A scheme was being prepared at the end of the year for the erection of bungalows and houses upon this site.

Private house building materially slowed down and only 22 houses were finished during the year. The small Newland Drive Estate was completed and the road adopted.

The Council made 5 loans to enable the purchase of private houses under the Housing Act, 1949.

Housing Circumstances within the Borough

During the year, the Council actively continued its slum clearance scheme and demolition or Closing Orders were placed upon the following properties:-

Yew Tree Hill Farm Cottage	Closing
No.53, Friar Street	"
No. 9, Winnetts Lane	Demolition
No.27, Friar Street	"
No.29, " "	"

Unfortunately, as mentioned in my last Annual Report this work is not producing very material results owing to the inability of the Council to re-house the tenants. It is hoped that with the completion of the flats some clearance of unfit houses will result.

The Council purchased a site of six houses in Holloway Road to allow re-development to take place.

Improvement Grants

The Council continued to give Improvement Grants and the following were authorised:-

Standard Grants

East Worcestershire Waterworks Company	£5. 0. 0d.
Mr.A.G.Mitchell, 6, Woodfield Road	£155. 0. 0d.
Mr.W.Grizzell, The Firs, Ombersley Road	£155. 0. 0d.

Discretionary Grants

Mrs.M.F.Trayling, 15, Albert Street	£199. 0. 0d.
Trustees of Coventry Charity	£1164. 0. 0d.
Mrs.M.Masters, 40, Miller Street	£112. 0. 0d.

Council House Management

The year under review has seen the re-commencement of a small building programme designed primarily to re-house the tenants of under-occupied houses in smaller accommodation, thus vacating three-bedroom houses for occupation by families. Four bungalows in Vines Lane were built and occupied at the end of 1961 and 20 flats were being built. It is anticipated that many of these will be occupied by older people transferred from Council houses, or the tenants of houses the subject of Demolition Orders.

There would appear to be a demand for bungalows, and there is no doubt that as tenants become used to the idea of transferring to a bungalow as they grow older, these will become more popular and one of the Council's difficulties of under-occupation more easily solved.

17 tenants were transferred to either larger or smaller accommodation during the year, and 11 applicants from the waiting list were re-housed as a result of vacancies occurring.

The number of persons on the waiting list is increasing, and the time has now arrived when your Council will have to again consider commencing the building of houses.

718 dwellings are owned by the Council, and it is interesting to note that during the year no less than 767 defects in houses were repaired. The majority of these are attended to within seven days of notification, and I think there is little doubt that this is far quicker than the owner of private property can possibly hope to have his own building repairs executed. This is a point which is not always appreciated by the individual tenants.

Considerable negotiation and discussion by the Council for the improvement of 32 houses progressed during the whole of the year, and it is hoped that this contract will be commenced in 1962. One of the problems is obtaining the tenancy of four houses in a block in order that the necessary transfers can be carried out to allow the improvement work to commence.

A scheme for erecting and renting individual garages to tenants continued successfully.

Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection

Slaughtering continued during the past year at Messrs.Levett & Hill's slaughterhouse, and the following carcasses were inspected:-

Oxen	Calves	Pigs	Sheep
95	7	104	429

130 lbs. of meat was found to be unfit for food and destroyed. Inspection of all the meat slaughtered in the Borough is carried out.

The Licence of the only Slaughterhouse within the Borough was renewed but it is anticipated that in 1963 slaughtering in the Borough will cease when the new abattoir at Bromsgrove is completed.

Food Premises

The following food premises in operation within the Borough have been inspected from time to time. Generally speaking these are maintained in fair condition, but more time could well be given to this important Public Health work than is at present, possibly due to my being the only inspector available.

Hotels	5	Grocers	25
Cafe's	8	Butchers	11
Canteens	6	Fishmongers	3

19 tins of food weighing 119 lbs. were found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily destroyed by the owners concerned.

Sampling

The following samples were taken during the year:-

Trade Effluent	7	Orange Squash	1
Ice Cream	7	Lido Water	2

Scavenging and Public Cleansing

House refuse continues to be collected from each dwelling weekly and from the larger hotels thrice weekly. Disposal is by controlled tipping, a further layer of refuse being laid on top of the old tip.

Tentative proposals concerning the joint provision of a destructor unit with other authorities has not so far produced any result.

The amount of refuse collected continues to increase with the development of the Borough, and a second lorry with removable canopy is being partially used each week. Street cleansing is carried out partially by street orderly truck and partially by individual trucks. It is proposed to recommend the Council to introduce a second electric truck with gang during 1962, as some of the outlying parts of the Borough are being scavenged irregularly.

Salvage was collected and the following materials were disposed of:-

	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.		
Mixed Waste Paper	24	10	3	-	value	£192. 18. 4d.
Scrap Iron	9	13	2	-	"	67. 9. 7d.
" Lead			2	4	"	1. 6. 9d.
" Tins						3. 0. 0d.
						£264. 14. 8d.

Rodent Control

Statistics are attached showing the number of inspections made and and work done in this connection.

Street Lighting

During the year, the street lighting upon the A.38 was modernized with new 200 watt sodium lamps, which has so improved the lighting of the the trunk road, that it is now one of the best lit sections of highway in the Midlands. The Council also improved the lighting of the Town Centre by the provision of colour corrected mercury lamps. This has also given a much improved lighting. Some 60 individual street lamps were placed in poorly lit parts of the district roads.

These major operations in street lighting have improved the lighting of the town immensely and have been appreciated by residents generally.

HIGHWAYS

Newland Drive

This short length of privately developed street has been made up and adopted.

Corbett Avenue footpath

The remaining length of broken and irregular footpath on the west side of Corbett Avenue was broken up and re-paved.

Vines Lane junction with Hampton Road

After a period of study, bollards were placed at this junction, which whilst not being absolutely perfect, have greatly improved the safety of traffic at this point.

Surface Dressing

The whole of the Class III and District Roads in the Borough were surface dressed.

One-way streets

Much improvement to the traffic circulation was effected by the introduction of a one-way street system in High Street, St.Andrew's Street and Winnetts Lane. This has practically stopped the innumerable traffic blocks which were occurring and is a great asset to all concerned.

To assist in the one-way street scheme, a small widening of the carriageway at the northern end of Winnetts Lane was made.

Chawson Road

The carriageway of this estate road which was very irregular, was regulated and re-surfaced.

New Witton Estate

A number of footpaths were extended by the developers to front houses as they were completed and occupied.

Junction of Oakland Avenue with the A.38.

The County Council have been urged to improve this corner which has a particularly acute angle. It is understood that they will be making this minor improvement during 1962.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

The disposal works have been maintained in as good a condition as is possible in view of their overloaded circumstances. A short-term scheme for assisting the works, was prepared and tenders obtained and this should be carried out during 1962. The scheme, consisting of the provision of an additional sedimentation tank together with a large sludge lagoon at the Sewage Works and relief to be given to the sewers in the lower part of the town by the diversion of the Stalls Farm Estate down Ombersley Road to Wheelers Bridge where the sewage would be pumped along a temporary sewer to the Sewage Works. The completion of this scheme should, it is hoped, permit the erection of a further 250 houses.

Sewers

Over many years, trouble has been experienced with infiltration of surface water into the sewer east of York Avenue and a length probably requires re-laying.

Generally, the sewers have, apart from periodic surcharging at some points, operated satisfactorily.

Flooding

A scheme prepared by the Severn River Board to embank the Salwarpe and cut off the canal from the Salwarpe as a flood prevention scheme was completed during the year. Further, with the improvement of the electricity supply to the Ejector Station in High Street, no electrical failure was experienced. It is pleasing to record that at no time did flooding take place, although this should not be taken as a criterion that flooding is a thing of the past. As High Street is below river level and pumping dependent upon a continuous supply of electricity, it cannot ever be 100% certain.

Parks and Open Spaces

The most noteworthy improvement was the completion of the Poplars Meadow scheme. This consisted of the laying down of Poplars Meadow to grass which thereby formed an extension to the King George Playing Field. A cricket square was laid out in the centre, and a very attractive modern pavilion constructed in red cedar. Towards the cost of this a grant of £500 was received from the King George Playing Fields' Association. It is to be hoped that in a year or two when the field can come into full use, some lightening of the load upon the older field will result.

Open spaces generally, together with trees, were maintained throughout the town.

Droitwich Park and Lido

The Park and Lido were maintained satisfactorily during the year, and your Council's policy of gradual improvement continued.

The sunbathing areas of the Lido were again extended and a new entrance built at the eastern end, affording dual access, the old entrance being used merely as an exit.

There is still a great deal of work which can be done at the Lido. Particularly desirable is the improvement of the footbaths and showers and the tiling of the pool. Thought might be given to the roofing over of the dressing cubicles with a sun deck, and heating the pool water.

The children's playground at the southern end of the Park was completed, a grant of £120 being received from the National Playing Fields' Association. The playground became very popular and was much used.

The contract for the improvement of the Ladies' public convenience in the Park was commenced. The improvement is much needed and will be appreciated next season.

The new tennis pavilion, built from materials from the old bowling pavilion was completed and brought into use.

Another worth while improvement was the surfacing of the car park, which was also lined out and became an attractive car park, much used by motorists.

Planning

Considerable discussions took place during the year between the Borough Council and the County Council on the difficult question of town development. The County Planning staff were working in close conjunction with my department in the preparation of the town map, and extensive surveys were in progress to ascertain suitable boundaries for future development.

Comprehensive plans were deposited by a private developer for the town centre reconstruction, but these were too premature for approval and the County Planning Department were pressing on with the overall town centre map. It is to be hoped that this will before long be approved in order that permissions may be given for the considerable development in respect of which planning applications have been received.

Planning (Continued)

170 plans were deposited for approval during the year, as compared with 68 for the year before the war. Each plan received has to be registered, carefully examined and reported upon, and the reports of the Planning Officer, Fire Officer and others obtained and co-ordinated. After consideration by the Council the approval notices are prepared and issued and the construction work inspected at regular intervals whilst in progress.

Industrial development

One further factory has been erected at the Berry Hill Estate and although tentative proposals have been received, no definite developments have taken place.

Droitwich Canal

Steps were taken to carry out an extensive survey and disconnect any drains discharging sewage into the canal. Quite a number of these were discovered in various parts of the town, and by the end of the year, most of them had been disconnected.

Agreement was reached with the Rural District Council on the method of dealing with the drainage entering the canal at Salwarpe, and it is hoped that before long a scheme can be executed.

Heriots Pool

The Borough Council were again offered the freehold of Heriots Pool and discussions with the County Welfare Committee were underway prior to the Council reaching a decision as to whether to accept the offer.

I am,
Your Worship, Ladies & Gentlemen,

GRAHAM L. ROBINSON,

Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

RODENT CONTROL

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other including Business & Industrial	TOTAL	Agricultural
1. Total No. of Properties in Borough	9	2214	200	2423	9
2. No. of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification	-	12	11	23	2
(b) Survey under the Act	9	524	27	560	3
(c) Otherwise	-	-	-	-	-
3. No. of properties inspected (in Sect.II) found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	4	27	10	41	-
(b) Mice Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	-	-	-	-
4. No. of infested properties (in Sect.IV) treated	4	39	21	64	2
5. No. of notices served under Section 4 of Act (a) Treatment	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Structural work (i.e. Proofing).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil